# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTER'S OFFICE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

ST. PAUL TRAVELERS, as successor in interest to ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO. Marine Division, subrogee of IBEX LLC, and IBEX, LLC

**Plaintiffs** 

v.

FAIRHAVEN SHIPYARD, INC., and A.I. MARINE ADJUSTERS, INC., a member of AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.,

**Defendants** 

LA LATMOT COURT DISTRICT OF MASS.

04 11314 TDO

MAGISTRATE JUDGE RBC

C.A. NO! 101 14 P 3: 54

**COMPLAINT** 

AMOUNT \$ 150
SUMMONS ISSUED.
LOCAL RULE 4.1
WAIVER FORM
MCF ISSUED
BY DPTY. CLK.

#### I. PARTIES

Now come the plaintiffs, St. Paul Travelers, as successor in interest to Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co. Marine Division, subrogee of IBEX LLC, ("St. Paul Travelers") and IBEX, LLC ("IBEX"), and complain against the defendants Fairhaven Shipyard Inc. ("Fairhaven Shipyard") and A.I. Marine Adjusters, Inc., a member of American International Group, Inc. ("AIG") as follows:

1. The plaintiff St. Paul Travelers is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the state of New Jersey and having a usual place of business at 1200 American Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey. At all relevant times herein its predecessor in interest, Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co. Marine Division ("Atlantic Mutual"), was authorized to issue policies of marine insurance within the state of Rhode Island.

- 2. The plaintiff IBEX, LLC is a corporation duly organized and existing at law and having a usual place of business at 2 Goat Island, Newport, Rhode Island. At all relevant times herein, IBEX, LLC was the owner and operator of the motor yacht IBEX ("M/Y IBEX").
- 3. The defendant Fairhaven Shipyard is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and having a usual place of business at 50 Fort Street, Fairhaven, Massachusetts, and at all relevant times herein was in the business of contracting for marine repairs of vessels.
- 4. The defendant AIG is a corporation duly organized and existing at law, having a usual place of business at 99 High Street, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2320, and at all relevant times herein was authorized to issue policies of insurance within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### II. <u>JURISDICTION</u> AND VENUE

- 5. Original admiralty jurisdiction in this court is proper within the meaning of 28 USC §1333(1) because this claim arises out of a contract for marine repair of a vessel.
- 6. Venue in this court is proper under 28 USC §1391(b) because this is the judicial district where the defendant Fairhaven Shipyard resides, and also because this is the judicial district where the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

#### III. FACTS

- 7. At all relevant times herein, Atlantic Mutual had issued a policy of marine insurance to IBEX, LLC. The subject of the marine insurance policy was M/Y IBEX, a 104-foot 1987 Broward motor yacht, O.N. 922876, home ported in Newport, Rhode Island.
- 8. At all relevant times herein, AIG had issued a policy of insurance to Fairhaven Shipyard.
- 9. On June 15, 2001, M/Y IBEX grounded while navigating in the harbor of Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- 10. Upon inspection following the grounding, the crew of M/Y IBEX found water in the vessel's fuel filter, suggesting rupture of the hull and one or more fuel tanks.
- 11. M/Y IBEX was towed to Fairhaven Shipyard in Fairhaven, Massachusetts where it was hauled and inspected.
- 12. As a result of the inspection, M/Y IBEX was found to be damaged and in need of repairs. Accordingly, IBEX and Fairhaven Shipyard entered into contract for the repair of M/Y IBEX. Pursuant to that contract, Fairhaven Shipyard undertook to perform repairs of grounding-related damages on M/Y IBEX between June 16, and July 25, 2001.
- 13. On July 26, 2001 M/Y IBEX was re-launched, and redelivered to the service of its owners.
- 14. Atlantic Mutual and IBEX paid in full all invoices for repair to M/Y IBEX given to them by Fairhaven Shipyard.
- 15. Following the return to service of M/Y IBEX, its crew continued to observe persistent slow fuel leaks around the vessel's main fuel tank.

- 16. On August 2, 2002, M/Y IBEX was hauled at Brewer's Cove Haven Marina at Barrington, Rhode Island ("Cove Haven Marina") and inspected. The Cove Haven Marina inspection revealed a fuel leak at the bottom of the forward bulkhead of the main fuel tank, and an additional leak at the aft bulkhead, separating the aft fuel tank from the main fuel tank.
- 17. On August 22, 2002, Theodore A. Toth, of Applied Metals Science Inc., a metallurgical consultant doing business at 4740 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Clearwater, Florida, issued a written report to Anthony Knowles, a marine surveyor representing IBEX, in which he stated that the fuel leakage was the result of defective welding. The welding in question had been performed by Fairhaven Shipyard between June 16 and July 25, 2001.
- 18. Cove Haven Marina and IBEX thereupon entered into a contract to repair M/Y IBEX.

  Cove Haven Marina completed repairs during September 2002, including repairs for defective welding by Fairhaven Shipyard. Repair invoices for work including repairs for defective welding ("subsequent repairs") were submitted by Cove Haven Marina, and were paid in full by Atlantic Mutual and IBEX.
- 19. Atlantic Mutual, as underwriter for IBEX, submitted a claim for the subsequent repairs to AIG, underwriter for Fairhaven Shipyards. Negotiations between the two aimed at resolving this claim continued from the fall of 2002 up through May of 2004.
- 20. During the course of the negotiations AIG engaged its own marine surveyor, one Michael Collyer of Marine Safety Consultants, Fairhaven, Massachusetts, to examine all known evidence and give an opinion. After examining the evidence, surveyor Collyer also concluded that the fuel leakage found aboard M/Y IBEX was the result of defective welding performed by Fairhaven Shipyard between June 16 and July 25, 2001.

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- As a result of AIG's investigation of this claim, on April 17, 2003, AIG tendered, and 21. Atlantic Mutual, now acting through its successor St. Paul Travelers, accepted an offer to pay \$65,000 to settle the claim for subsequent repairs.
- Subsequent to its agreement to pay a settlement, AIG withdrew from the agreement to 22. pay, refused to honor its agreement to pay, and has refused to make any further offer or attempt to resolve the claim with Atlantic Mutual or St. Paul Travelers.
- Atlantic Mutual resolved in full this loss with its insured IBEX less a self-insured 23. retention paid for by IBEX. St. Paul Travelers, as successor to Atlantic Mutual, and IBEX, LLC therefore both have standing to bring this claim.

#### COUNT I - BREACH OF CONTRACT (St. Paul Travelers and IBEX vs. Fairhaven Shipyard and AIG)

- St. Paul Travelers and IBEX repeat paragraphs 1-23 and incorporate the same herewith. 24.
- Fairhaven Shipyard agreed to repair, and was paid in full to repair, all grounding-related 25. damages sustained by M/Y IBEX.
- By conducting defective welding on M/Y IBEX, resulting in fuel leaks and the necessity 26. for subsequent repairs, Fairhaven Shipyard breached its contract with IBEX for marine repairs.
- As a direct result of Fairhaven Shipyard's breach of contract, St. Paul Travelers and 27. IBEX have sustained damages as will be more fully shown at trial.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs St. Paul Travelers and IBEX demand judgment against the defendants Fairhaven Shipyard Inc. and AIG, in such amount as this honorable court may determine to be just and proper together with interest and costs.

#### COUNT II – BREACH OF WARRANTY

(St. Paul Travelers and IBEX v. Fairhaven Shipyard and AIG)

- 28. St. Paul Travelers and IBEX repeat paragraphs 1-23 and incorporate the same herewith.
- 29. In agreeing to conduct marine repairs on M/Y IBEX, Fairhaven Shipyard warranted that it would perform all such repairs in a workmanlike manner.
- 30. By conducting defective welding on M/Y IBEX, resulting in fuel leaks that necessitated subsequent repairs, Fairhaven Shipyard breached its warranty of workmanlike performance to IBEX.
- 31. As a direct result of Fairhaven Shipyard's breach of warranty, St. Paul Travelers and IBEX have sustained damages as will be more fully shown at trial.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs St. Paul Travelers and IBEX demand judgment against the defendants Fairhaven Shipyard and AIG, in such amount as this honorable court may determine to be just and proper together with interest and costs.

#### COUNT III – NEGLIGENCE

(St. Paul Travelers and IBEX vs. Fairhaven Shipyard and AIG)

- 32. St. Paul Travelers and IBEX repeat paragraphs 1-23 and incorporate the same herewith.
- 33. In agreeing to undertake and perform marine repairs on M/Y IBEX, Fairhaven Shipyard owed to IBEX a duty to conduct such repairs in a non-negligent manner.
- 34. Fairhaven Shipyard breached its duty to IBEX by conducting repairs to the welding on M/Y IBEX that were negligent.
- 35. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Fairhaven Shipyard, St. Paul Travelers and IBEX have sustained damages as will be more fully shown at trial.

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WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs St. Paul Travelers and IBEX demand judgment against the defendants Fairhaven Shipyard and AIG, in such amount as this honorable court may determine to be just and proper together with interest and costs.

## COUNT IV – G.L. c. 93A, §11 (St. Paul Travelers and IBEX vs. AIG)

- 36. St. Paul Travelers and IBEX repeat paragraphs 1-23 and incorporate the same herewith.
- 37. At all relevant times herein St. Paul Travelers and/or its predecessor Atlantic Mutual, IBEX, and AIG were engaged in trade or commerce within the meaning of M.G.L. c. 93A, §11.
- 38. By entering into a claim settlement agreement, and then by withdrawing from and refusing to honor its agreement, and by thereafter refusing to make any further offer or attempts to settle, AIG engaged in an unfair method of competition and/or an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning of §2 and §11 of G.L. c.93A.
- 39. St. Paul Travelers and IBEX, LLC sustained damages as a result of AIG's employment of unfair method of competition and/or unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of §§2 and 11 of G.L. c.93A as will be more fully shown at trial.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs St. Paul Travelers and IBEX demand judgment against the defendant AIG, in such amount as this honorable court may determine to be just and proper

together with interest, costs, and multiple damages and attorneys fees, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Plaintiffs,

ST. PAUL TRAVELERS as successor in interest to ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO. Marine Division, subrogee of IBEX LLC, and IBEX, LLC

By their attorney,

William Hewig, III (BBO# 54/910)

Kopelman and Paige, P.C. 31 St. James Avenue Boston, MA 02116

(617) 556-0007

222810/61095/0002

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

| Division, sub  | o ATLANTIC MUT<br>progee of IBEX,  | TUAL INS. CO<br>LLC, and I  | . Maa<br>BEX,          | TIME FAIRHA LLC A.I. M AMERIC County of Residen  | AVEN SH<br>MARINE .<br>CAN INT<br>ence of First I<br>(IN U.S. Pl | ERNATIONA<br>Listed <u>B</u><br>LAINTIFF CASE                                | L GROUP, INC.  SONLY)  SETHE LOCATION OF THE   |  |
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| William H  | ne, Address, and Telephone<br>Lewig III, Esq.<br>C., 31 St. Jan<br>-4102   | , Kopelman  |                        | Attorneys (If Kno  | 13   | 14   | PBS TRICT OF MA  |  |
| II. BASIS OF JURISI  | DICTION (Place an "X"  | in One Box Only)  |                        | ITIZENSHIP OF P<br>or Diversity Cases Only)  | RINCIPA  | L PARTIES  | Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for De fendant)  |  |
| ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  | ₹3 Federal Question (U.S. Govern r.  | `   | tizen of This State    | Incorporated or of Business In   | Principal Place ☐ 4 ☐ 4<br>In This State                         |  |  |  |
| 2 U.S. Government<br>Defendant   | ☐ 4 Diversity<br>(Indicate Citiz<br>in Item III)   | zenship of Parties  |                        | tizen of Another State   |  | of Business In   | d Principal Place ☐ 5 ☐ 5 n Another State  |  |
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| IV. NATURE OF SUI<br>CONTRACT  |  | One Box Only)  ORTS   | Fe                     | ORFEITURE/PENALTY  | BANI   | KRUPTCY  | OTHER STATUTES   |  |
| □ 110 Insurance □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement o □ 144SMeticare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits | PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  315 Airplane Product Liability  320 Assa ult, Libel & Slander  330 Federal Employers' Liability  345 Marine  345 Marine Product Liability  350 M otor V chicle  355 M otor V chicle | Airplane   362 Personal Injury   Med. Malpractic   Siander   368 Asbesios Personal Enjury Peduct Liability   368 Asbesios Personal Enjury Product Liability   Liability   PERSONAL PROPE!   Marine Product   370 Other Fraud   371 Truth in Lending Motor V chicle   380 Other Personal Property Damage |                        | 610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other  LABOR 710 Fair Labor Sundards | 820 Copyright   830 Patent   840 Tradema   SOCIAL S              | at 28 USC 158  Irawal C 157  RTY RIGHTS  rights t mark  L SECURITY  13 95ff) | 400 State Reap portionment   410 Antitust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.   460 Deportation   470 Racke teer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   810 Selective Service   850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange   875 Customer Challenge   12 USC 3410   891 Agricultural Acts   892 Economic Stabilization Act  |  |
| ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability  |  |   |                        | Act<br>720 Labor/M gmt. Relations  | □ 862 Blac<br>□ 863 DIW<br>□ 864 SSID                            | C/DIW W (405 (g))  | □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act  |  |
| REAL PROPERTY  210 Land Condemnation 220 Force losure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property  | CIVIL RIGHTS  441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommod ations 444 W etfare 440 Other Civil Rights   | PRISONER PETIT    510 Motions to Vacional Sentence   Habeas Corpus:   530 General   535 Death Penalty   540 Mandamus & O   550 Civil Rights   | ther                   | 730 Labor/M gmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Lätgation 791 Empl. Rct. Inc. Security Act   | ■ 865 RS11  FEDERA ■ 870 Taxes or De                             | (405(g)) AL TAX SUITS  (U.S. Plaintiff (fendant)  —Third Party               | 895 Freedom of   Information Act   900   Appeal of Fee   Determines for the parties of the par |  |
| V. ORIGIN  M 1 Original □ 2 1  | State Court  | Remanded from<br>Appellate Court  | □ 4 R                  | einstated or   5 (specificopened   | ferred from<br>er district                                       | □ 6 Multidist<br>Litigation  | Appeal to District Judge from rict 7 Magistrate  |  |
|  |  | nal statutes unless diversit<br>general mari  | <sub>y.)</sub><br>time |  |  | el repair  | s, and   |  |
| VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:   | V ☐ CHECK IF THI<br>UNDER F.R.C  | S IS A CLASS ACTI   |                        | DEMAND \$  | C  | HECK YES only URY DEMAND:  | if demanded in complaint:<br>: ☐ Yes <b>X</b> D No   |  |
| VIII. RELATED CAS  |  | JUDG<br>E   |                        |  | DOCKE  | ET NUMBER  |  |  |
| June 14,   | 2004 <b>M</b>  | DIGNATURE OF  | EU.                    | y OF RECORD  |  |  |  |  |
| RECEIPT #  | AMOUN  | APPLYING IFP  |                        |  |  | MAG. JUI   | DGE  |  |

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

|        |  |                        |   |                            |   | 37                      | LERKS                       |                            |                    |  |
|--------|--|------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2.     | Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)). |                        |   |                            |   |                         |                             |                            |                    |  |
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|        | F  |                        | 740, 790, 791, 820                                    | *, 830*, 840               | *, 850, 890, 892-894, 895   | i, 950.                 | for patent                  | , trademark (              | or copyright cases |  |
|        | <u>x</u>   | III.                   |   | , 345, 350,                | 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370,   | •                       |                             |                            |                    |  |
|        |  | IV.                    | 220, 422, 423, 430<br>690, 810, 861-865,              |                            | 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 675, 900.  | 650, 660,               |                             |                            |                    |  |
|        |  | V.                     | 150, 152, 153.  |                            |   |                         |                             |                            |                    |  |
| 3.     | Title and this dis   | d numbe<br>trict pleas | r, if any, of related cas<br>se indicate the title an | es. (See lo<br>d number o  | cal rule 40.1(g)). If more<br>f the first filed case in thi   | than one pr<br>s court. | rior related ca             | ise has been               | filed in           |  |
| 4.     | Hasap  | rior actio             | n between the same p                                  | arties and                 | based on the same claim   | ever been               | filed in this c             | ourt?                      |                    |  |
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|        | lf so, is  |                        | or an officer, agent o                                | or employee                | of the U.S. a party?  | _                       |                             | •                          |                    |  |
|        |  |                        | N/A   |                            |   | YES                     | NO                          |                            |                    |  |
| 6.     | ls this d  | ase requ               | red to be heard and d                                 | etermined t                | y a district court of three   | judges pu               | rsuant to title             | 28 USC §228                | 34?                |  |
|        |  |                        |   |                            |   | YES                     | NO                          | X                          |                    |  |
| 7.     | Do <u>all</u> o<br>Massac<br>40.1(d))  | husetts (              | ies in this action, exc<br>'governmental agenci       | luding gove<br>es"), resid | ernmental agencies of the<br>ing in Massachusetts re  | side in the s           | ame division                | ommonwealt<br>? - (See Loc | h of<br>al Rule    |  |
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